



# Groundwater Replenishment

## GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT

The Coachella Valley's annual average of three inches of rain along with snowmelt from surrounding mountains is not nearly enough to replenish the groundwater that is pumped from the local groundwater basin to meet water demands.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) have been working for decades to eliminate overdraft of the groundwater basin through a successful groundwater replenishment program and by implementing water management practices that protect supplies for future generations.

## WATER SOURCES

- **Colorado River** water via the 123-mile Coachella Canal. CVWD's federal contracted supply of Colorado River water is 453,000 acre-feet.
- **State Water Project (SWP)** water (from the Sacramento Bay Delta) is exchanged for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Colorado River water since there is no direct pipeline connection to the Coachella Valley. This exchange saves agencies from building an estimated \$1.6 billion pipeline to receive SWP water from Northern California. Together, CVWD and DWA's contracted supply is 194,100 acre-feet.
- **Natural run off** from local, mountain streams naturally percolate into the aquifer. On average, only about 62,000 acre-feet is replenished naturally.

## WATER REPORT

The Indio Subbasin annual report for the 2017-2018 water year shows increases in groundwater levels of 2-50 feet over the past 10 years in areas from Cathedral City to Mecca. To read the entire report, visit [cvwd.org/sgma](http://cvwd.org/sgma).

## REPLENISHMENT FACILITIES

- Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Palm Desert Replenishment Facility, Phase I (Phase II is under design and construction is expected to commence in FY 2021).

## REPLENISHMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- **3.6 million acre-feet** of imported water has been replenished into the aquifer at three facilities since 1973.
- **3 million acre-feet** of water is enough to serve the water needs for 6 million families of four in one year.
- **278 thousand acre-feet** was replenished at the Whitewater River and Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment Facilities in the 2018 water year, which began on Oct. 1, 2017 and ended Sept. 30, 2018.
- **99%** of the Coachella Valley's domestic water supply is groundwater.
- **400,000 people** in the Coachella Valley use groundwater.
- **7,000 local businesses** use groundwater.

Your Water  
is our promise



Main line: 760.398.2651  
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